

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 102809

O R 270833Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9587

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

COMUSTDC

S E C R E T TAIPEI 5185

EXDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILL, TW, TH, JA, CB, LA, VS

SUBJ: PREMIER CHIANG'S REACTION TO OUR PROPOSED STATEMENT  
RE REDEPLOYMENT OF 374TH TAW

REF: A. STATE 169575

B. TAIPEI 4801

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AT LEAST PARTIALLY REVERSING HIS  
EARLIER POSITION, PREMIER CHIANG INFORMED CHARGE THAT HE  
WOULD STRONGLY PREFER THAT WE DROP ALL PLANS FOR ANY  
KIND OF PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT WITHDRAWAL OF THE  
374TH TAW FROM TAIWAN. HE RECOGNIZED THAT  
COMPLETE NEWS BLACKOUT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE AND  
THAT IF QUERIED, WE WOULD HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE FACT OF  
WITHDRAWAL. ALTHO RH TOLD REDEPLOYMENT DECISION

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APPEARED FINAL, PREMIER

NEVERTHELESS RENEWED HIS  
REQUEST THAT ONE OF THE C-130 SQUADRONS BE RETAINED  
AT TAIWAN. END SUMMARY

2. CHARGE MET WITH PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO AUGUST 27  
TO CONVEY COMMENTS AND INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTEL  
A. ON QUESTION OF ACTUAL REDEPLOYMENT PLANS, CCK RENEWED  
HIS REQUEST THAT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE WE LEAVE ONE SQUADRON  
OF C-130'S IN TAIWAN. CHARGE SAID HE THOUGHT THERE  
WAS VIRTUALLY NO POSSIBILITY OF OUR DOING SO, BUT HE  
AGREED TO RELAY PREMIER'S RENEWED REQUEST TO WASHINGTON.  
PREMIER MADE NO COMMENT WHEN CHARGE READ HIM  
LANGUAGE ABOUT SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE (PARA 2, REFTEL).

3. CCK SEEMED APPRECIATIVE THAT WE HAD TRIED TO DEVISE  
A PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE REDEPLOYMENT TO MEET HIS  
MINIMUM POSITION. NEVERTHELESS, HE WAS QUITE UNHAPPY  
WITH THE TEXT WE PROPOSED TO RELEASE SEPTEMBER 4, BECAUSE  
IT REFERRED EXPLICITLY TO WITHDRAWALS FROM TAIWAN,  
WHEREAS HE HAD HOPED THERE WOULD ONLY BE A GENERAL  
REFERENCE TO THE REDUCED NEED FOR SUCH AIRCRAFT IN THE  
AREA. CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT OUR PROPOSED LANGUAGE

DE-EMPHASIZED TAIWAN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND HELPFULLY  
OBSCURED THE PROSPECT THAT THE PLANES WOULD BE  
DEPLOYED ELSEWHERE IN THE WEST PACIFIC. IF WE WERE TO  
GO BEYOND THIS AND IMPLY NO FURTHER NEED FOR C-130 AIR-  
CRAFT IN THE AREA, WE WOULD GENERATE CONCERN IN  
THAILAND, VIETNAM AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

4. PREMIER CONCLUDED HE WOULD PREFER NO ANNOUNCEMENT  
WHATEVER TO THE ONE CONTEMPLATED FOR SEPTEMBER 4. IF SOME  
PUBLICITY WERE NECESSARY, HE DID NOT RULE OUT THE IDEA OF  
A LIMITED, ONE-SHOT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE FIRST SQUADRON  
(I.E., THAT IT HAS ALREADY BEEN RELOCATED TO LITTLE ROCK  
AFB BECAUSE THE NEED FOR SUCH AIRCRAFT HAS DECREASED  
WITH THE REDUCTION OF US INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN  
HOSTILITIES AND WITH THE LESSENING OF TENSIONS IN THE  
AREA). CHARGE EXPLAINED THAT COMPLETE NEWS BLACKOUT WOULD  
BE IMPOSSIBLE. WORD WOULD SURELY SEEP OUT AND IF WE  
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WERE QUERIED, WE WOULD HAVE TO AT LEAST ACKNOWLEDGE WITH-  
DRAWALS FROM TAIWAN. CHARGE ALSO MENTIONED HAVING JUST  
HEARD ON RADIO THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER HAD MADE  
SOME PUBLIC REFERENCE TO DRAW DOWN OF FORCES ON TAIWAN.  
PREMEIER SEEMED TO APPRECIATE THAT NEWS WOULD GET OUT  
BUT REITERATED HIS REQUEST STATING IT WOULD  
BE EASIEST WAY FOR HIM TO HANDLE THE MATTER.

5. ABOUT AN HOUR AFTER INITIAL MEETING, PREMIER  
ASKED CHARGE TO STAY FOR A FEW MINUTES FOLLOWING  
COURTESY CALL BY CONGRESSMAN MATSUNAGA. HE SAID HE  
HAD REFLECTED FURTHER AND  
HAD DECIDED DEFINITELY THAT ROC INTEREST WOULD BE  
FAR BETTER SERVED IF THERE WERE NO REPEAT NO ANNOUNCE-  
MENT OF ANY KIND ABOUT ANY OF THE C-130 REDEPLOYMENTS.  
OUR PROPOSED ANNOUNCEMENT FOCUSED TO MUCH ON TAIWAN AND WOULD  
ENCOURAGE SPECULATION THAT THE REDEPLOYMENT WAS UNDERTAKEN  
AT PEKING'S BEHEST.

6. COMMENT. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT WASHINGTON ACCEPT  
PREMIER'S NEW POSITION AND DROP ALL PLANS FOR ANY  
PUBLIC STATEMENT ON WITHDRAWAL OF THE 374TH TAW. WE  
WERE RATHER SURPRISED BY CCK'S REACTION SINCE WE  
THOUGHT THE DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSAL FULLY CONSISTENT  
WITH WHAT AMBASSADOR MCCONAUGHY HAD EXPLAINED EARLIER  
AS BEING THE BEST WE COULD DO. PERHAPS PREMIER  
FAILED TO UNDERSTAND OUR EARLIER REMARKS OR PERHAPS  
HE HAS SIMPLY CHANGED HIS MIND FOLLOWING FURTHER

CONSIDERATION.

7. APOLOGIZE FOR THE SWITCH IN SIGNALS AND REQUEST  
A PROMPT DECISION AS TO WHETHER WE CAN ACCOMMODATE  
CCK BY DROPPING ANY ANNOUNCEMENT.  
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